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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 27 December 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose, herewith a letter dated 27 December 1995 from H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 60, 81, 95 (a), 140, 145 and 146, and of the Security Council, as requested in the annex.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 27 December 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The perennial hostile policies of the Government of the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran have recently been intensified and taken dangerous new dimensions. As you may be aware, two pieces of legislation are being enacted in the United States Congress, one authorizing covert subversive operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other unilaterally attempting to disrupt Iran's economic relations with other States. They are both in blatant violation of universally accepted norms and principles governing relations among nations and create dangerous precedents with unpredictable yet grave consequences detrimental to the cause of the rule of law and international peace and security. They thus require immediate and serious examination and reaction by the international community, and particularly the United Nations.

As you might have noticed, the reports made public in the United States media, including the enclosed article entitled "White House Agrees to Bill Authorizing Covert Action in Iran", published in The Washington Post on 22 December 1995, unveil a conspiracy by the United States Government to conduct covert operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its legitimate Government. These reports reflect the agreement of the White House with a Congressional bill that authorizes spending of up to US$ 20 million for secret anti-Iran operations. It is even more alarming to note that, according to the Congressional Monitor, at least US$ 2 million out of this amount is allocated to subversive activities within Iranian territory.

Since the legislation is classified, the magnitude of the adventurist illegal operations envisaged remains unknown. It is important to note that the original intention of the legislation, as officially and publicly proposed by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, was to overthrow the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The few details that have been published indicate that the White House and the Congress have agreed to intervene directly in order to destabilize the Islamic Republic of Iran, which includes measures such as supporting groups opposing the Iranian Government and "cultivating new opponents".

As the involvement of the overwhelming majority of these groups in terrorist crimes against the Iranian people, inside and outside Iranian territory, is solidly based in uncontrovertible documents, even acknowledged by the American Government, the now-declared policy of the United States is nothing but the most vivid example of State-sponsored terrorism in its most blatant and official form. The involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as an agency of the United States Government, also indicates the practice of State-terrorism ironically being legislated into law.

The policy of interference, intervention and subversion, which is now made public, has been pursued for years by the Government of the United States of America against Iran. It contravenes the universally recognized dictums of international law and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the fundamental principles of respect for the sovereignty and political independence of States and non-intervention and interference in the internal affairs of other States.

Furthermore, the United States Government is bound, through its undertaking under the Algerian Declaration of 19 January 1981, formally adhered to and constituting a treaty obligation for that Government, to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The United States interventionist policies in Iran have a long history and have always been a source of anxiety and concern for our people. In order to put an end to these conducts, the Algerian Declaration, inter alia, provides:

> The United States pledges that it is and from now on will be the policy of the United States not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily, in Iran's internal affairs.

It is crystally clear that the United States Government, by adopting the measures envisaged in the aforementioned legislation, has once more violated its undertaking under this declaration, and is in serious breach of its international treaty obligations.

The principle of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States is a universally accepted norm incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations and several other international and regional treaties. In addition to United States treaty obligations vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran, several resolutions of the General Assembly, including the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty (resolution 2131 (XX) of 21 December 1965), the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 and the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States (resolution 36/103 of 9 December 1981) reaffirm the obligation of States not to interfere, directly or indirectly, in the internal or external affairs of other States.

Resolution 2625 (XXV) stipulates that:

> ... armed intervention and all other forms of interference or attempted threats against the personality of the State or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are in violation of international law .... No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind.

Both the above-mentioned pieces of United States legislation constitute blatant violations of these universally recognized norms governing inter-State conduct.

To justify its illegal behaviour, the United States has resorted extensively to a baseless defamatory misinformation campaign, vilification and hostile propaganda and has disseminated false and fabricated allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. As we have indicated in the past, we consider the insistence of American officials on repeating unsubstantiated and undocumented allegations that have already been proven fictitious as a matter of utmost irresponsibility and a serious and dangerous mistake, the continuation of which will have destructive repercussions for international relations and will create a climate of suspicion and distrust.

The new pieces of legislation pending in the United States Congress, viewed in the wider context, signify a trend towards unilateralism and a tendency towards coercive imposition of the politically motivated views of one State on the rest of the international community. They also represent a very fundamental challenge to the rule of law and the underlying principles of the United Nations, and indicate the tendency to legalize State and State-sponsored terrorism through domestic legislation.

It is evident that the continuation of this kind of irresponsible unilateral conduct and arrogant behaviour by the United States Government will set an alarming precedent with far-reaching adverse implications for international peace and security and create uncertainty and insecurity in international relations, for which the United States alone must bear full responsibility. These policies must be universally and unequivocally rejected. The United Nations, and particularly the Secretary-General of the Organization, has a fundamental responsibility to prevent such disastrous consequences and take all necessary and appropriate steps to bring these policies and practices to an immediate halt.

It would be highly appreciated, if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 60, 81, 95 (a), 140, 145 and 146, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Appendix

White House Agrees to Bill Authorizing Covert Action in Iran

By R. Jeffrey Smith
and Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writers

Washington Post
December 22, 1995

Bowing to pressure from House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), the Clinton administration has agreed to accept a House bill authorizing a small-scale covert action program aimed at moderating the radical Islamic regime in Iran, including cultivating new opponents to the regime, according to administration and congressional sources.

Gingrich has described Iran as "the most dangerous country in the world" and for weeks had been quietly holding up House approval of a $28 billion intelligence community spending bill in an effort to force the administration to accept a covert program that targets the Iranian government.

With support from Senate lawmakers, the administration resisted providing funding for any program aimed at overthrowing the Iranian regime, as CIA officials said it was unlikely to succeed. But House and Senate negotiators, acting with the consent of key administration officials, hammered out a deal on Tuesday that authorizes secret spending of up to $20 million for a covert anti-Iran program.

Instead of trying to overthrow the regime, however, the program would have the less ambitious aim of trying to blunt Iran's extremist policies and encourage it to move—even slowly—toward becoming a democracy, several sources said. The bill does not authorize any spending for lethal military aid to anti-Iran forces, such as the assistance the Reagan administration provided to the contra rebels in Nicaragua to try to destabilize the government there, several sources said.

The House passed the intelligence bill containing this secret provision on Iran yesterday, sources said. Congressional sources said the Senate was expected to approve it as well, possibly by today, and sources in Congress and the administration predicted President Clinton will sign the legislation shortly after he receives it. Two sources said the administration has agreed to spend some of the anti-Iran funds.

"For the most part, Gingrich is satisfied with the bill," a spokesman for the House speaker said, while declining to discuss what the bill said.

The funding plan is one of several recent U.S. initiatives that target the policies of Iran's leadership. The government has angered U.S. officials, who say it has tried to undermine the Middle East peace process, supported terrorism in the Middle East and other regions and allegedly tried to create a nuclear arsenal.

The Senate approved a bill yesterday that would tighten existing U.S. trade sanctions against Iran by punishing foreign companies that invest in the country's oil industry—a bill the administration also has said it will accept. Earlier this week, U.S. officials formally agreed with representatives of 27 other nations to create a multilateral organization dedicated to stopping Iran and three other nations from obtaining armaments and militarily sensitive dual-use goods.

In approving the new sanctions against Iran, the Senate agreed to apply the same penalties against foreign companies that invest in Libya's oil business.

Sens. Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) went after Libya, another oil-dependent economy, to mark the seventh anniversary of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Libya has refused to hand over two suspects in the bombing, which killed 270 people.

The measure probably would have less effect on Libya than on Iran because Libya, unlike Iran, is already under United Nations sanctions prohibiting some investment in the oil industry there.

Clinton, in remarks this week to a Saudi-owned London newspaper, Asharq al-Awsat, said "our problem is not with the people of Iran; it is with the unacceptable behavior of the Iranian government." He said the trade embargo was meant to "demonstrate our resolve to compel Tehran to pay a price for continuing its threatening activities."

The president said Washington could begin a direct dialogue with the Iranian regime only after these activities stop, according to a transcript of the interview released by the White House.

CIA Director John M. Deutch and other U.S. intelligence officers have told lawmakers in recent months that Iran's leadership faces no serious domestic opposition for at least the next three years, and they outlined various difficulties the CIA would face in trying to destabilize the government.

One major problem is that key Iranian opposition leaders operate from the territory of Iraq, a U.S. enemy, or receive Iraqi funding. The Clinton administration has refused to have any dealings with the principal opposition group, known as the Mujahedin, but several members of Congress have urged the administration to reconsider its position.

On the other hand, U.S. intelligence officials say the Iranian regime has been under growing economic pressure resulting from widespread corruption and a mountain of unpaid foreign debt. A senior U.S. defense official predicted two weeks ago that "Iran will moderate" in the coming decade, even though it is unlikely to abandon its ambition to become the dominant regional power.

The campaign against Iran has been strongly supported by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the chief pro-Israel lobbying organization. AIPAC has aggressively lobbied for the new sanctions legislation, which would impose penalties on foreign corporations, banks and lending institutions that make major investments in Iran's oil and gas industries, the country's principal source of revenue.

Clinton already has banned U.S.-based firms from doing business with Iran. Congress cannot prohibit foreign corporations from investing there, but the Senate bill is intended to force foreign organizations to choose between doing business with Iran and doing business with the United States.

The Senate bill was put on a fast legislative track because its chief sponsors, including D'Amato, want to set the Iranian economy back further by heading off several large new petroleum development projects for which Iran has been seeking foreign partners.

Similar measures are under consideration in the House, where staff members of both parties predicted adoption of a bill stronger than the Senate bill, probably including a ban on exports to the United States by foreign corporations investing in Iran.

Gingrich has been raising alarms about Iran periodically for at least the past year. He has called it a "terroristic state . . . committed to defeating the West in any way it can" and said Iranian-backed terrorism poses "a permanent, long-term threat to civilized life on this planet." He has further warned that Iran's efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction could enable it "to annihilate Tel Aviv and in the long run to annihilate Chicago or Atlanta."

Gingrich told a Jewish group in October that he favored making "Iran a real project," after earlier likening the idea to a "a serious, sophisticated campaign plan" or a battlefield effort "that applies all sorts of indirect pressures." He has only vaguely described what this plan should consist of but said in February that its aim should be to replace the regime in Iran.

In April, however, he spelled out two other potential goals: "moderating" the regime, or merely guaranteeing that it "never gets nuclear weapons." Both are comparable to what the administration states it is trying to do already, by supporting the trade embargo and pressuring U.S. allies not to export sensitive equipment to Iran.

The Iranian government, for its part, has attacked Gingrich for his "parochial ignorance" and "lack of mental equilibrium." The Iranian parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Nategh Nuri, has called Gingrich an "imbecile." Last autumn, the country also said his criticism amounted to "state terrorism."